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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,827	08/03/2001	Jai Chul Kim	HI-0038	7512
34610 7590 07/23/2008 KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP P.O. Box 221200 Chantilly, VA 20153-1200				
EXAMINER ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN				
ART UNIT 2614		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 07/23/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,827

Applicant(s)

KIM, JAI CHUL

Examiner

THJUAN K. ADDY

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32, 34-36, 39, 40 and 42-45 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 32, 34-36, 39, 40 and 42-45 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/3508)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on April 10, 2008 has been entered. No claims have been amended. Claims 1-31, 33, 37, 38, and 41 have been cancelled. Claims 43-45 have been added. Claims 32, 34-36, 39, 40, and 42-45 are now pending in this application, with claims 32 and 39 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 32, 34-36, 39, 40, and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crisp (US 7,209,772), in view of Slipy et al (US 5,848,152).
4. In regards to claims 32, 39, 43, 44, and 45, Crisp discloses a mobile telephone (See Fig. 3 and radio/portable telephone handset), comprising: a telephone body (See Fig. 3 and main body 2); a button portion provided on the telephone body (See Fig. 3, group 10 of keys or buttons, and group 11 of control keys or buttons); and a pair of grooves (See Fig. 3 and groove 20, which is providing on each side of the main body) extending along sides of the telephone body adjacent the button portion (See Fig. 3), the pair of grooves extending substantially the length of the button portion (See col. 4 lines 61-64). Although Crisp discloses a slide type button cover (See Fig. 3 and sleeve portion 3) (See col. 4 lines 3-5 and col. 4 lines 61-67), which is configured to mate with

the pair of grooves (See Fig. 3 and col. 4 lines 61-67), and wherein the button cover (e.g., sleeve portion 3) is just for covering the button portion (See col. 4 lines 13-22 and col. 4 lines 38-44), Crisp does not disclose a plurality of interchangeable button covers, each having a frame configured to mate with the pair of grooves, wherein the plurality of interchangeable button covers include a bar type button cover, a flip type button cover, and a slide type button cover, and wherein the button covers are just for covering the button portion. Slipy, however, discloses wherein the plurality of interchangeable button covers (e.g., faceplates) include a bar type button cover (See Fig. 1 and faceplate 104) and a flip type button cover (See Fig. 10 and keypad cover 418) (therefore, it would have been obvious to include a slide type button cover, as shown in the Crisp reference), and wherein the button covers are just for covering the button portion (See Fig. 10 and keypad cover 418). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate these features as part of the mobile telephone, as a way of providing a distinctive user interface appearance for the telephone, thereby giving the telephone one distinctive appearance, of a plurality of distinctive telephone appearances, by allowing the user to change the faceplate/cover and choose another distinctive appearance at a later time. In regards to the limitations, wherein the plurality of interchangeable button covers each further comprise a pair of projections positioned at upper ends of the frames of the interchangeable button covers and configured to mate with corresponding fixing recesses disposed at upper ends of the plurality of grooves, Crisp discloses the mobile telephone, wherein the button cover comprise a pair of projections configured to mate

with corresponding fixing recesses (See Fig. 9 and recesses 26) disposed at upper ends of the plurality of grooves (See col. 5 lines 11-38). Slipy discloses the plurality of interchangeable button covers (See Fig. 1, faceplate 104, and Fig. 10, keypad cover 418).

5. In regards to claim 34, Crisp discloses all of claim 34 limitations, except the mobile telephone, wherein the bar type button cover includes a button cover attached to or integral with the frame and having a keypad configured to cover and interlock with key buttons of the button portion. Slipy, however, discloses wherein the bar type button cover (See Fig. 1 and faceplate 104) includes a button cover attached to or integral with the frame and having a keypad (See Fig. 1 and keypad 106) configured to cover and interlock with key buttons of the button portion (See Fig. 1).

6. In regards to claim 35, Crisp discloses all of claim 35 limitations, except the mobile telephone, wherein the flip type button cover includes a button cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion. Slipy, however, does disclose the mobile telephone, wherein the flip type button cover includes a button cover hingedly connected to the frame for selectively covering and exposing the button portion (See Fig. 10 and keypad cover 418).

7. In regards to claim 36, Crisp discloses the mobile telephone, wherein the sliding type button cover (e.g., sleeve portion 3) includes a button cover attached to or integral with the frame such that when the frame mates with the pair of grooves (e.g., grooves 20) the button cover slides along the telephone body (e.g., main body 2) to cover or expose the button portions (See col. 4 lines 13-22 and col. 4 lines 38-44).

8. In regards to claims 40 and 42, Crisp discloses the mobile telephone, wherein the pair of projections are configured to slide along the length of the pair of grooves (e.g., grooves 20) and then mate with the corresponding fixing recesses (e.g., recesses 26) (See col. 5 lines 11-38).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 10/15/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

10. Applicant argues that in the Crisp device, the detents 23 are depressed below a surface of a button of the groove 20 for disengagement from the recesses 26 to allow the sleeve portion 3 to continue to slide in a chosen direction, and thus, the Crisp disclosed recesses 26 and detents 23 are only for a sleeve type cover. Applicant further argues that further, the recesses 26 are provided on the sleeve portion 3, which corresponds to the claimed button covers, while the detents 23 are provided at a lower end of the main body, and thus, Crisp does not disclose or suggest a plurality of interchangeable button covers each comprising a pair of projections positioned at upper ends of the frame and configure to mate with corresponding fixing recesses disposed at upper ends of the plurality of grooves.

11. In response to Applicant's argument that in the Crisp device, the detents 23 are depressed below a surface of a button of the groove 20 for disengagement from the recesses 26 to allow the sleeve portion 3 to continue to slide in a chosen direction, and thus, the Crisp disclosed recesses 26 and detents 23 are only for a sleeve type cover,

and that further, the recesses 26 are provided on the sleeve portion 3, which corresponds to the claimed button covers, while the detents 23 are provided at a lower end of the main body, and thus, Crisp does not disclose or suggest a plurality of interchangeable button covers each comprising a pair of projections positioned at upper ends of the frame and configure to mate with corresponding fixing recesses disposed at upper ends of the plurality of grooves, Examiner respectfully disagrees. For example, Crisp discloses the mobile telephone, wherein the button cover comprise a pair of projections configured to mate with corresponding fixing recesses (See Fig. 9 and recesses 26) disposed at upper ends of the plurality of grooves (See col. 5 lines 11-38). Furthermore, Slipy was used to disclose the plurality of interchangeable button covers (See Fig. 1, faceplate 104, and Fig. 10, keypad cover 418).

12. Applicant appears to be arguing the references individually. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
14. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THJUAN K. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.
16. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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17. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thjuan K. Addy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614